

## CLAIMS

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1. A method for operating a printing unit in an offset machine in which the printing unit comprises a doctor blade used for coating and as moistening unit for applying water, characterised in that the doctor blade and an interacting roller are displaced between a first position for transferring water via a plate cylinder to a blanket cylinder and a second position for transferring coating directly to the blanket cylinder.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterised in that the displacement is a pivoting about an axis in parallel with the rotational axis of the plate and blanket cylinder.

3. A printing unit for use in a method according to claim 1 or 2 in an offset machine, comprising means for coating and means for applying water, and where the coating means and the water application means are constituted by a unit comprising a doctor blade and at least one roller for transferring coating or water from the doctor blade, characterised in that the coating and water application unit is arranged slidable between a first position for bringing said at least one roller in contact with a roller engaging the plate cylinder, and a second position for bringing said at least one roller in direct contact with the blanket cylinder of the printing unit.

4. A printing unit according to claim 3, characterised in that the coating means only comprises one transfer roller in the shape of a screen roller transferring coating directly from the doctor blade to the blanket cylinder.

5. A printing unit according to claim 3, characterised in that the coating means comprises transfer rollers in the form of a screen roller and a rubber roller for transferring water from the doctor blade to the plate cylinder and one screen roller for transferring coating directly to the blanket cylinder.

~~6. A printing unit according to any of claims 3-5, characterised in that the doctor blade/transfer roller unit is mounted pivotably in relation to the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder between one of the engagement positions with the plate cylinder and the blanket cylinder.~~

~~7. A printing unit according to any of claims 3-6, characterised in that the unit is provided with coupling means which are arranged for being connected releasably with coupling means in the frame of the offset machine, preferably coupling means for a cleaning unit known per se for the plate cylinder.~~

~~8. A printing unit according to any of claims 3-7, characterised in that the transfer roller is driven by its own motor, preferably via a motor controlled by a line signal from the main machine.~~

~~9. A printing unit according to any of claims 3-8, characterised in that the unit comprising the doctor blade and the at least one roller is mounted in the offset machine in an exchangeable way with the existing moistening unit of the offset machine.~~